



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON WORKFIRST

*Department of Social and Health Services • PO Box 45000 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5000 • (360) 902-8400*

*Employment Security Department • PO Box 49046 • Olympia, Washington 98504-9046 • (360) 902-9500*

*State Board for Community and Technical Colleges • PO Box 42495 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2495 • (360) 753-2000*

*Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development • PO Box 48300 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8300 • (360) 753-2200*

February 6, 2003

To: Local Planning Area Leads

From: Sub 3

Subject: WorkFirst High Performance Bonuses

On January 24, 2003, the WorkFirst program announced budget reductions for the current fiscal year. Among the cuts was funding for High Performance Bonus awards, including the 2001-2002 bonuses earned by 16 Local Planning Areas and announced in late October.

WorkFirst administrators struggled to identify budget cuts that would have the least direct impact on client services. While we regret withdrawing this well-deserved recognition of great performance, we hope you will understand that the alternative was to cut more deeply into such areas as job placement, child care, support services and training.

This financial setback does not diminish our appreciation of outstanding efforts by local WorkFirst partnerships in putting parents to work, keeping them on the job, and collecting child support. We will be sending you a certificate to recognize your achievement.

Also, while the Innovative Project winners were never announced, a review panel had determined them. That announcement, albeit without a financial award, will be made later today. Additionally, the 16 projects nominated for an Innovative Bonus will be posted on the WorkFirst website, so other LPAs can learn from these best practices.

Thank you for your continued hard work to help parents get a job, a better job, and a better life. If you have questions about the high performance bonuses, please contact Roxanne Lowe at [roxanne.lowe@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:roxanne.lowe@ofm.wa.gov) or (360) 586-4064.